

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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42

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03

RSR-01 PA-03 PRS-01 /036 W

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R 170932Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO USIA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 9771

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1798

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJ: GSL PLANS RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN CULTURAL CENTERS

JOINT USIS/EMBASSY MESSAGE

1. MDFA DIR WEST AFFAIRS BALASUBRAMANIAM TOLD THE PAO AT A DINNER PARTY JULY 15 THAT AN INSTRUCTION REQUIRING FOREIGN CULTURAL CENTERS TO SUBMIT A DESCRIPTION OF ALL OF THEIR ACTIVITIES TO THE MINISTRY FOR PRIOR APPROVAL IS BEING DRAFTED. HE EXPLAINED THAT THIS IS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THE EXISTING CENTERS (UK, FRANCE, GERMANY AND US) BUT IS NECESSARY TO CONTROL NEW CENTERS WHICH OTHER MISSIONS HAVE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO OPEN.

2. HE DID NOT IDENTIFY SPONORS OF THE NEW CENTERS, SAYING "YOU KNOW WHO THEY ARE." HE CITED AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE SORT OF ACTIVITIES THAT HAD TO BE CONTROLLED THOSE OF NORTH KOREANS BEFORE THE INSURRECTION WHICH LED TO THEIR EXPULSION. IT IS KNOWN THAT THE USSR HAS BEEN PRESSING FOR PERMISSION TO OPEN A CENTER FOR SOMETIME AND THE PRC IS THE NEXT MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE.

3. WHEN THE PAO POINTED OUT THAT SUCH REGULATION WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY AND UNNECESSARILY COMPLICATE THE OPERATION OF USIS, BALASUBRAMANIAM REPLIED THAT HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING HE COULD TO MAKE IT AS PAINLESS AS POSSIBLE FOR USIS AND ASKED IF THE PAO WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW THE DRAFT AND MAKE SUGGESTIONS BEFORE IT IS ISSUED. THE ANSWER WAS AFFIRMATIVE.

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RUSSELL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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